

REMARKS

No claims have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim for Priority

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge applicants' claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 filed on August 28, 2003, a copy of which is attached for the examiner's convenience together with a stamped copy of the postcard evidencing receipt of the same by the PTO.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-10 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of copending U.S. Application No. 10/650,076 ("the '076 application"). Without conceding the propriety of the above double patenting rejection, and in order to further prosecution, a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to the '076 application is being filed herewith under 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c). Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the obvious-type double patenting rejection has been overcome and respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-10 be withdrawn.

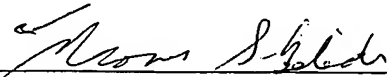
Since there are no other rejections outstanding, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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